

Message Text

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10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SY-05 DHA-02 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 SCA-01 /080 W

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R 291426Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0742

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, HO (CYPHER, MICHAEL J.)

SUBJ: FUNERAL OF FATHER CYPHER

REF: AMBASSADOR/LAZAR TELCON, TEGUCIGALPA 3096

1. AMBASSADOR SENT LETTER OF CONDOLENCE JULY 21 TO FATHER CYPHER'S MOTHER AND HAS SENT LETTERS JULY 15 AND JULY 22 TO CONGRESSMAN DAVID R. OBEY OF WISCONSIN. FURTHER LETTERS BEING PREPARED TO BRING THEM, PLUS FATHER CLEMENT WEIDMAN, FATHER CYPHER'S PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR, UP TO DATE.

2. ACCORDING TO LAY WORKER FROM GUALACO FATHER CYPHER'S BODY ARRIVED FRIDAY AFTERNOON JULY 18 AND LAY IN STATE THAT NIGHT IN PARISH CHURCH WITH HONOR GUARD OF STUDENTS FROM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL. SATURDAY BODY WAS TAKEN TO SAN ESTEBAN WHERE MASS WAS SAID BY FATHER COOK. BODY WAS RETURNED IN SOLEMN PROCESSION TO GUALACO AND LAY IN STATE SATURDAY NIGHT, STILL WITH HONOR GUARD. ANOTHER MASS WAS SAID SUNDAY MORNING. AT 16:00 SUNDAY BODY CARRIED THROUGH STREETS OF GUALACO IN SOLEMN PROCESSION OF ESTIMATED 1,000 PERSONS AND RETURNED TO CHURCH WHERE FATHER COOK AND A FATHER ANTONIO CONCELEBRATED FUNERAL MASS. BODY THEN BURIED BENEATH FLOOR OF CHURCH SANCTUARY. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF CEREMONIES BY LAY VOLUNTEERS WILL BE SENT TO FAMILY BY FATHER COOK.

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3. FATHER CYPHER'S EFFECTS ARE PRESENTLY IN CUSTODY OF FATHER EMILIO COOK WHO WAS HIS RELIGIOUS SUPERIOR IN HONDURAS. AS FATHER CYPHER WAS MEMBER OF RELIGIOUS ORDER WITH VOW OF POVERTY, CONSOFF UNDERSTANDS HIS EFFECTS TECHNICALLY BELONGED

TO ORDER RATHER THAN TO HIM PERSONALLY. CONSOFF FURTHER
CONSIDERS FATHER COOK, AS SUPERIOR AND MEMBER OF SAME ORDER,
"LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE" IN TERMS OF 7 FAM 444.2 AND HAS NOT
PROCEEDED TO TAKE POSSESSION OF EFFECTS AS PROVISIONAL
CONSERVATOR.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF REMAINS WAS OFFICIALLY MADE BY HIGH
LEVEL INVESTIGATING COMMISSION, PRESUMABLY RELYING ON PHOTOGRAPH
PROVIDED BY EMBASSY OR ON WITNESSESS WHO KNEW HIM. ON VIEW
OF ADVANCED DECOMPOSITION REMAINS WERE TAKEN IN SEALED COFFIN
DIRECTLY FROM JUTICALPA TO GUALACO.

5. CONSOFF HAS REQUESTED DEATH CERTIFICATE AND WILL PREPARE
FS-192 WITH COPIES TO FATHER CLEMENT WEIDMAN AND MRS. ELIZABETH
CYPHER AS IN DEPTTEL 169997.
SANCHEZ

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI03235
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750262-0127
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaaeek.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971021
Subject: n/a
TAGS: CDES, HO, CDES, (CYPHER, MICHAEL J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006